

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

**February 05, 2018**

**6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Jerah Cordova called the Regular Meeting of the Belen City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll Call taken by Brian McBain, Deputy City Clerk.

**PRESENT:** Councilor David Carter  
Mayor Pro-Tem Frank F. Ortega  
Mayor Jerah R. Cordova  
Councilor Darleen Aragon  
Councilor Wayne Gallegos

**CITY MANAGER:** Leona Vigil

**DEPUTY CITY CLERK:** Brian McBain

**REPORTER:** Clara Garcia, VC News Bulletin

**OTHERS:** See attached Sign-in Sheet

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Cordova led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Gallegos made a motion. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Aragon seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the minutes dated January 16, 2018 as presented. Councilor Gallegos made a motion. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Aragon seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the minutes dated January 29, 2018 as presented. Councilor Ortega made a motion. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Aragon seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Abstain	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

## **PUBIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Cordova asked if there was anyone with a public comment.

Steve Tomita: Wanted to remind people of the upcoming Valencia Trades Conference and Job Fair happening on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at the Business Center.

There were no other public comments and this portion of the meeting was closed.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **A) MAGISTRATE COURT RELOCATION STUDY**

Judge John Chavez introduced the study, reminding that about a year ago, we had addressed the need for a new courthouse given that the current courthouse is twenty years old and is out growing the need, currently in a lease that will expire in 2020. Judge Chavez advised that a study was done to see if the City would become the landlord of the courthouse, which is something that is happening statewide, going from private landlords to public entity landlords. Mr. Luis Campos and Ms. Engineer stated that a study was completed, using information from the old City Hall building, and a new structure, given that the Wells Fargo building will not be feasible given the security needs. Given that the old City Hall building would need modification for both security and ADA needs, the estimated cost for this project would be about \$4.7 million, however, parking in that area would be a problem, needing around 50 spaces to accommodate the public. A new building construction was also presented, we would need about 2 acres of land for this construction, if the purchase of land was needed, the total estimated cost would be around \$5.7 million however, if the City already has the required land, then the total estimated cost of construction would be around \$3.8 million, the main need is for accessibility of the location for the public. The Council advised the City Manager to complete a follow up meeting within 30 days so that this does not fall off the radar as this is needed to service the community, but instead allow us to ensure we are working with the courts to meet the end of current lease deadline, possibly even creating a task force that Councilor Carter and Councilor Gallegos can be a part of. Mayor Cordova advised that he does not think gutting the old City Hall building is the answer to restoring this building, so it appears that the best option is to have a new build on two acres, also he was advised that if the lease deadline is not met, there is a month to month option on the current lease.

### **B) FISCAL YEAR 17 AUDIT PRESENTATION**

Mr. Robert Peixotto from Southwest Accounting Solutions presented the FY 17 audit and findings, stating that the overall need for cash reserves is essential to ensuring that the City can maintain a good financial status into the future, the city, during this audit year brought in \$10.6 million but spent \$11 million. Mr. Peixotto also presented each finding, showing that the City staff is already taking steps to remedy these 5 findings for future audits.

### **C) BELEN POLICE DEPARTMENT LIFE SAVING AWARD PRESENTATIONS**

The officers who would be receiving this award were dispatched to a call and could not be present, therefore, the Council was advised that this presentation would be given at the next meeting scheduled for February 19, 2018.

## **PUBLIC HEARING WITH POSSIBLE ACTION**

### **APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF A ZONE CHANGE FROM C-1 TO S-U FOR EZEKIEL ROJAS.**

Mr. Steve Tomita presented the information on the request for zone change, specifying that the Planning and Zoning Committee has recommended approval of this change with the attached stipulations of agreement. Mr. Rojas then spoke advising the Council that this property will be used for auto storage only and has placed a 6ft fence on the property, saying that he has a dealership in Bosque Farms, so when someone wants to buy a vehicle, they store this at location then drive it to the dealership and sell it to the customer, stating he has titles for each car. Mr. Rojas advised that this was not a salvage/junk yard, it was used just for storage only and is willing to comply with all stipulations, also stating that he would not need a business license because he would not be selling from the lot itself. Councilor Ortega was concerned with this, stating that this is a long distance from Bosque Farms, he wanted to ensure that this was not a salvage yard or chop shop, advising that we need to add that "no criminal activity shall be taking place on the premises, if so, this will be closed down immediately" onto the agreement/stipulation, not wanting this to be a place for stolen cars. Mr. Rojas stated

that he does not deal with stolen cars as all cars he has are legal, instead, they buy the vehicles from the auction, and place pictures at business, then sell the vehicle to the customer, drive the vehicle to the shop and prepare for the customer to take. Councilor Ortega wanted to make sure Mr. Rojas understood that per the agreement, he is not allowed to have any salvaged cars, if one is discovered, then he will be shut down immediately, stating that all vehicles stored on the property will be a good/working car, Mr. Rojas then stated that he understood this agreement and advised that he will only have around 50-60 cars on the property at a time, they should only be in and out, being repaired/prepared to sell.

Mayor Cordova asked if there was any further discussion from the audience, there being no discussion, Mayor Cordova closed the public hearing and opened up the floor to any Councilor comments or questions. The Council had no further comments on this matter.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Ortega made a motion to approve with the amended stipulations. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Gallegos seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

***\*Ordinance 2018-01\****

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF A ZONE CHANGE FROM C-1 & C-R TO C-2 FOR THE NEW FIRE STATION.**

Mr. Steve Tomita presented the information on the request for zone change, specifying that the Planning and Zoning Committee has recommended approval of this change, advising that the area is turning into a civic municipal center and is moving in that direction into the future for the zoning plan. Councilor Gallegos advised that it was great to see the City complying with the rules, making sure that we are doing things right to move forward, expecting that from the public and ourselves alike.

Mayor Cordova asked if there was any further discussion from the audience, there being no discussion, Mayor Cordova closed the public hearing and opened up the floor to any Councilor comments or questions. The Council had no further comments on this matter.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Gallegos made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Aragon seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

***\*Ordinance 2018-02\****

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF CHANGES TO CHAPTER 2.16.060 OF THE BELEN MUNICIPAL CODE, AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE MUNICIPAL COURT COMPENSATION.**

Mr. Brian McBain presented the proposed ordinance to the Council summarizing what other municipalities, in similar population size, pay their Judges. Mayor Cordova advised the Council of the request to review this salary and read a letter that the current Municipal Judge wrote to the Council into the record, asking for an increase in annual salary to equal \$60,000/year, another thing to note, in order for a judge to have a pay increase, this must take place before the election, which is why this is before the Council now. Councilor Gallegos asked if there was any input on the changes from the Judge. Mr. McBain advised that this change was needed to adjust the ordinance itself to ensure compliance with our own current ordinance, and the Judge was sent a copy of the proposed ordinance prior to the public hearing. Councilor Carter asked for a reminder of the study, Councilor Aragon advised that based on the study, we appear to be comparable. Councilor Gallegos asked if we had searched just surrounding areas that may be bigger, Mr. McBain advised that he only looked at areas that were within the same population as Belen, not wanting to skew the study based on the higher populations. Councilor Carter asked if the case load may have increased to justify the increase, Mr. McBain advised that

he was unaware of any changes in case load, Councilor Carter thought that because we are sending cases to Magistrate Court instead, which should have reduced the case load, however, it is an election year and she is running unopposed, which could be a consideration as to why no one wants to run for this office, are we not paying enough? Councilor Gallegos stated that this is something that needs to be studied and taken care of to ensure we spend the money in the right places to battle crime, as all agencies are connected to this occurrence. Councilor Gallegos was unsure of where this \$60,000 came from, Mayor Cordova advised that Los Lunas pays around \$55,000 per year and has considered raising this to \$65,000 per year, Councilor Ortega advised that there is no negotiation taking place, and Councilor Carter advised that the Council determines the pay rate. Mayor Cordova advised that we can approve what is up there now or approve the changes with a salary increase as requested. Councilor Aragon advised that we should look at the case load while Councilor Carter advised that we need to look at the position and not the person. Councilor Gallegos stated that we should let the public speak up in this hearing and hear from them. Mayor Cordova advised that more information and more time may not help, I think we all know what we need to do, the judge we have is currently paid the highest for a municipality our size, we know what we need to do period.

Mayor Cordova asked if there was any discussion from the audience, anyone who would like to speak for or against this proposed ordinance.

Mr. Danny Bernal stated that this should be a no, she is the highest paid now, and currently is running unopposed, this raise should not be happening, I do not think this would have come up if she was not being unopposed in the upcoming election.

Traci Morerod stated that she would respectfully ask that the Council leave the pay rate at the cap of \$45,000, considering that she is the highest paid of the comparable cities, Danny made a great point as being unopposed in the election, and do agree with Councilor Carter, it is about the position and not the person, considering we have comparable we should leave it at that, especially after the audit we just received, we must be thrifty with our nickels.

Lenore Pena stated that she was unsure about this raise because the last time we gave the Judge a raise, the court raised the rates for fines to pay the salary, which is something that needed to be considered, we need more officers or raise for the current officers.

There being no other discussion, Mayor Cordova closed the public hearing and opened up the floor to any Councilor comments or questions. The Council had no further comments on this matter.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Carter made a motion to approve as amended with the effective date change of March 12, 2018. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Gallegos seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

***\*Ordinance 2018-03\****

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF PENDING/THREATENED LITIGATION AS ALLOWED PER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT 10-15-1 (H-7)**

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Carter made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Gallegos seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

***\*The Council entered into Closed Session at 8:09 pm\****

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Gallegos made a motion to re-enter into Open Session. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

*\*The Council returned to Open Session at 8:37 pm\**

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to advise that the matters discussed in the closed meeting were limited only to those specified in the motion for closure, and no actions were taken. Councilor Ortega made the motion. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Gallegos seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

### DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

#### **APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION TO AMEND APPENDIX A TITLED UTILITY RATES AND CHARGES TO ESTABLISH NEW FEES FOR USE OF THE CONVENIENCE CENTER.**

Ms. Leona Vigil presented the need for adjusted fees for use of the Belen Convenience Center, advising that the bill for AC Disposal was costly due to the increased use by Valencia County residents, the need to increase the fees for the county residents would help to balance this cost of service, the proposed increase would leave Belen residents at the current \$5.00 per cubic yard, and would increase Valencia County residents to \$8.00 per cubic yard for passes to use this service. Mayor Cordova stated that we are currently losing \$17,000 per month based on the bill and the use of the center, this must be addressed now, to ensure that we stop bleeding money over the life of this current contract. Ms. Vigil advised that currently the Water Dept. is selling passes which can be difficult to inspect prior to selling the pass, which also may be the cause of these issues, also advising that we must address the truck loads and ensure that we define what is acceptable for the price moving forward, we will be working with AC Disposal to see if they would take over the operations and collections of these fees, inspecting vehicles to ensure charges are calculated correctly. Councilor Carter was concerned with the numbers presented, stating that the tonnage difference is not that much compared to the cost, this could be an operational problem and not a cost collection problem, this must be looked at now. Councilor Gallegos said this most of this is a problem because of education, we need to create a form that shows the amount per load, we also need to ensure that we increase our tonnage with our permits for the State so that we do not exceed what we are allowed, we have also met with AC Disposal to ensure that our permits are up to date with the State permitting office, creating an ops plan, the numbers we have now are the same as last year but no one told us, we are on the path to doing things right moving forward, also stating that the original plan was to allow AC Disposal to take over operations, which has changed but needs to be addressed again through the contract. Mr. Jerry Jaramillo spoke to the Council, advising that he lives in the City and would like to ensure that the prices for citizens stays the same, stating that he pays for his curbside and if the Council will allow the County to use the center, then they should pay for this service and the cost should not be put on the people living in the City. Councilor Ortega advised that we need to ensure we are staying in line with the permitted tonnage, we need to look at ways to help the county because we pay now or later, we will communicate and educate, the citizens of Belen will not pay more for this service, we will just work this out to ensure the operation itself continues correctly, we must take care of our citizens in Belen first. Mayor Cordova advised that we can afford to charge Belen citizens only \$5 because of the supplemental money we receive from curbside service, however, we are currently losing this money out of our Solid Waste fund because of the allowance to use by County residents, this is why we must adjust the price for Valencia County residents. Councilor Aragon advised that it is fair if the County pays a little more for tipping fees for this service, the Belen residents pay for this already in their fee and through their current curbside service. Councilor Carter advised that we are collecting enough in curbside to take care of our residents, which is why we should not increase the fees for city residents, instead we need to adjust the fees for county residents and ensure we are charging correctly, we also need to eliminate green waste from the trailers ensuring that we reduce the loads taken.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Aragon made a motion to approve, increasing fee for County residents, leaving our Belen residents the same. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

***\*Resolution 2018-01\****

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF SUBCONTRACTOR ADJUSTMENT UNDER THE RATIFICATION CLAUSE OF THE PROCUREMENT CODE FOR VIVIAN FIELDS PROJECT**

Ms. Roseann Peralta presented the requested change of subcontractor by the contractor for this project. Ms. Leona Vigil advised the Council that the City would need to send a certified letter to the original subcontractor, who would then have five days to object, calling for a public hearing on this matter, however, if the subcontractor did not object, then the City would proceed with the approval of change. The Council then decided to table this item until the process has been completed and advised to the subcontractor.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Carter made a motion to table until a future meeting. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL OFFICER(S) FOR THE BELEN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Police Chief Scott Conner presented some statistics and organizational structure of the police department, specifying the need for two more officers on staff now which will help with staffing issues when officers take leave, moving toward a positive effectiveness and efficiency of the department, he also stated that the statics presented in various crime reports is hard to gauge because many times this is collected by area code, which means that everyone in the 87002 zip code falls to Belen reporting of crime, but more importantly the report also stated that the fear of being caught seems to be the major deterrent of crime which is why I would like to add four police officers within the next 4 years. Chief Conner advised that when we are fully staffed, he can add up vacation and training time which will equal an entire position of a full time officer, when hiring new officers, it can take around one year to certify these officers and train them properly, further, just because of the attrition rate of law enforcement, we lose around two officers per year. Councilor Gallegos advised that the ratio of officers to population size is close to other areas, having detectives in the police force is very important, I really think we need to focus on retention also, we have put money into this trying to keep the officers we do have, we added a Deputy Chief to help in these issues also, I think instead of getting security for the City, we should hire service aides that can work towards becoming officers, when the budget allows, we should focus on this for implementation, we all deal with vacations and given that the auditor has stated to slow down on expenses, and the need for additional staff everywhere, we really need to make strategic moves that are lasting, we need money for this and not just political promises with the safety card. Mayor Cordova advised that based on the difficulty of the budget and some of the issues from the past, we looked at security guards on contract to control the recurring expenses associated with hiring an officer, this would allow for better budgetary adjustments and efficiency, we know we need more eyes on the street, so this was a proposal to help towards a solution, this is something that Albuquerque is also facing and implementing. Councilor Ortega advised that 25% of the budget goes to the police department, in a perfect world we could make it work but it is not a perfect world, so with the 22 officer, what are we doing with those officers to deter crime, do we have a comprehensive plan, we have a budget and we must build up our cash reserves, we have other departments that need this budget also, we need to take care of our employees also, the other departments need staff and are functioning with what they have, compared to what we had before we had to lay off employees after the financial crisis in 2010, we have still not made up for that, we are still running on short staff in all our other departments (16 positions total), the current employees haven't had a cost of living raise in a long time also, we have given the police money for uniforms, hiring, retentions and other moves, throwing money at the problem does not seem to be helping, if we had the funding for this we would hire more officers, it is just not there. Mayor Cordova then asked Ms. Roseann Peralta to provide some insight on where we really

stand with the budget so that we can clear this up a bit more realistically, there has been a lot of talk tonight about the cash reserves, looking like we have over \$600,000 available, which can cover the officers needed, we can get grants for police cars and I want to see if we can realistically afford these officers. Ms. Roseann Peralta advised that yes we do have carry over cash reserves, however, we did pass the financial policy stating that we would hold 15 to 25% in cash reserves of our budget, however, we are currently not at that percentage as of now, the cash is there but GRT supports more of the General Fund, this is a consistent changing numbers so we may show this extra cash but it may already be money that has been promised in another way, the expense of two officers would be around \$224,000 expense (\$70,000 per officer and \$42,000 for each vehicle that we need for the officers). Councilor Carter then advised that we should not put Roseann on the spot, the decision is ours, we are required to keep 1/12 in the bank per statute, we need this extra cash reserves because this helps the financial stability of the entity. Councilor Carter then handed out some forms that contained the numbers on the GRT, showing that our projections have been off in the pass, stating we cannot rely on projections to source this, this is something that needs to be discussed in our budget hearings, not put on the agenda for political reasons during election time, crime is an important issues, not opposed to more officers but we need to ensure we focus on how we will pay for this within our budget, we need to see tactical plans from the Chief on what he will be doing in the future to help reduce crime. Mayor Cordova advised that is sounds like everyone agrees that this will be an item that is discussed in our budget hearings that start in April 2018. Councilor Gallegos advised that he has heard of a public safety task, we have one from through the County now, which covers supplies, and while tax is not a good thing to say sometimes, if the public is truly behind this, maybe they would be interested in funding more officers given the importance of this issue. Councilor Aragon advised that she does not want the Chief to feel like we are beating you up, we do thank you for all you do and the hard work that your department does, we want more officers but we need to ensure we are within our budgets to ensure we are not put in the same situation we were in eight years ago, we are working towards getting better and we need to keep in that direction, we need to budget for these officers, maybe we can have a public/private security like the merchant patrol, letting the businesses take up the cause also. Ms. Traci Morerod stated that the Chief is a great friend to the Community Watch Group, he has really interacted with us, the city is doing a great job addressing the concerns, I just ask that you highly consider this in the next budget session, safety of our citizens should be a top priority, maybe an alternative for the meantime, maybe we can give training to citizens that would volunteer to help give extra eyes out in Belen.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Carter made a motion to send this item to the budget workshops that will take place in April of 2018. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Gallegos seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF A TRADE WITH THE LOS LUNAS POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Police Chief Scott Conner advised the Council that the Los Lunas Police Department was interested in obtaining an MP-5 Machine Gun for their SWAT team, Chief Conner advised that the Belen Police Department owns one of these guns that is not currently in use, and because these type of guns can only be used by law enforcement, he has proposed a trade of this gun to Los Lunas and in turn will receive an unmarked 2006 Chevy Impala that he can use for his new Detective. Los Lunas Police Department is getting approval for this trade from their Council and now we are asking that the Council approve this trade, as it will be cost effective and efficient in getting what we need for his department.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Carter made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Gallegos seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS RESOLUTION**

Ms. Roseann Peralta presented the required 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter budget adjustments as originally shown to the Council, stating that this would need to be approved via Resolution in order to take effect and fulfill DFA requirements.

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion. Councilor Gallegos made a motion to approve. Mayor Cordova asked for a second. Councilor Ortega seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

***\*Resolution 2018-02\****

**DISCUSSION**

**A) MAYOR/COUNCIL COMPENSATION ORDINANCE**

Mr. Brian McBain presented the current Mayor/Council compensation ordinance as requested by Councilor Ortega at the last meeting, stating that currently the Mayor receives \$18,000/year and each Councilor receives \$12,000/year. Councilor Ortega advised that he would like to decrease this payment in order to help the Belen Police Department fund more operations in crime prevention, stating that he would like to change the ordinance for this purpose. Mr. McBain advised that we would need to change the ordinance prior to the election for this to take effect, also saying that if this was a temporary solution, he would not suggest that the ordinance be changes but instead look at finding a way for the Mayor/Council to return their salary via resolution, if this is a choice they would like to make into the future. Councilor Ortega advised that when the City was going through a financial crisis back in 2010, the Council did this same thing, donating the money back to the City by passing a resolution allowing for this to occur. Councilor Gallegos advised that he would support a decision to give back or reduce the money received by the Mayor/Council, would need to see a timeline and what impact this would have in the budget itself. Mr. McBain advised that he would look into this, consulting the financial departments to see what process should be followed to allow this type of action, not changing ordinance all the time, but left up to the individual via resolution, making this a choice instead. Mayor Cordova advised that eight years ago the City was required to pay, and we accomplished this return of money via resolution.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Leona Vigil stated: Two new employees started today, Kyle in IT and Mindy in the Water Department, the Human Resources Director advised that with the new tax structure paycheck will be a little more for employees, 13<sup>th</sup> Street has been completed, Rosedale Circle gate has been broken already built speedbumps have been painted, working on Rosedale Circle sidewalks there are trees in the way so he is speaking with the homeowners to see what can be done to complete this, they are working on 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Circle K lights are complete. From the Montanza event, the grass was torn up and the sprinklers were broken, could have been due to hay rides and Sheriff office using ATV, the VA Memorial sign was also knocked down, as well as some stop signs and electrical box which we may look at collecting more of a security deposit based on this reoccurring damage, Tommy will be focusing on the p-gravel at the middles school and the VA Memorial, he did pot holes last week. We did get awarded the HSIP for the Delgado project available in 2021 with no match. Ace Hardware has a soft opening today, official opening day will happen next month, Loves is moving forward and will open in April, Tractor Supply is ongoing. The project on the Corner of Main and Reinken is on hold due to permitting issues for the Dominos building. Deborah has a request from the military to see if we can create a drop zone to practice, she will be looking into safety regulations for this. Bertha has sent out her grant and is awaiting word. Councilor Carter inquired where we are at in naming the street for Rael. Ms. Vigil advised that we are talking to the owners, the previous signatures were renters so we notified the owners to get input, once received we will set up for Council meeting.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL**

Councilor Carter stated: Went to the Montanza, went to Economic Development meeting and will be having job fair Thursday at 10 am.

Councilor Ortega passed on his time to speak.

Councilor Aragon stated: Met with MRSW on great blocks grant, went to Montanza, got to view the Thompson & Gamble building upstairs which was amazing, attended the Economic Development Meeting.



Councilor Gallegos stated: Spent a lot of time at the Roundhouse in Santa Fe and we did some good, getting good news, had to fight for resending of Triple A Senior Citizens service and rules, Representative Salazar let me read a document for him at the Roundhouse which was an honor. I met with the Library Board, all is going good, they want to use old housing authority office to sell books and have an operating bookstore, and it will be run by the Friends of the Library which will raise money for the library itself. The Chamber Banquet went well, Vivian ground breaking was good, and we met with DOT on the 25<sup>th</sup> on the issues with the City, DOT has committed to start a traffic study for Chavez and 314 to see what needs to be done with signals, the Montanza was great.


Mayor Cordova stated: On Saturday I went to the Jarales Community Center to talk about flood control issues with pueblitos, as they were hit hard, the high line canal flows through Belen, the run off causes problems there, I let them know about Reid Mae Pond, I told them that we are waiting on pending Legislation, so they could go to bat for us to help them in the long term.

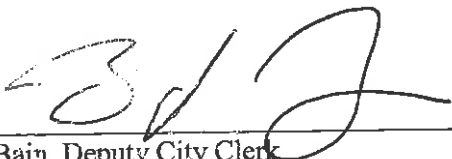
**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's Regular Council Meeting. Councilor Carter made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Aragon seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	Motion Carried

*(Meeting adjourned at 11:26 pm)*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerah Cordova, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian McBain, Deputy City Clerk